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DECEMBER, 1956

Legion Chief Helps Launch Project



Wilbur C. Daniel (right), national commander of the American Legion, is shown as he presents the Legion's Child Welfare Foundation's check for \$10,000 to Philip R. Mather, president of the American Social Hygiene Association, at a press conference held in New York last month. Money will be used to help subsidize ASHA's teenage VD study. (See story at right.)

ASHA Teen VD Study Granted \$92,000

Grants totaling \$92,000 have been received by the American Social Hygiene Association for a pioneering nation-wide study of promiscuity and venereal disease in teenagers.

Largest contribution came from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation of Winston-Salem, N. C., which contributed \$60,000. The Child Welfare Foundation of the American Legion has granted \$10,000, with the balance of the funds, amounting to \$21,007, contributed anonymously.

The study, expected to take more than two years for completion, will be conducted among a variety of ethnic groups in both rural and urban environments, and in areas of both low and high VD incidence.

In announcing the grants, Mr. Mather said that the increasing occurrence of venereal disease among teenagers today has serious implications for public health officials, parents and educators.

"Young people from the ages of 11 to 19 are making up more than half of the total VD case load in the United States today," he pointed out.

A steering committee, headed by Dr. John Beeston, associate professor of preventive medicine and public health at the University of California at Los Angeles, is now making plans for the final structuring of the study and assignment of study responsibilities to research groups in several areas of the country.

Dr. Eliot Joins Harvard

Dr. Martha M. Eliot has been appointed professor and head of the Department of Maternal and Child Health in the Faculty of Public Health, Harvard University.

Dr. Eliot was formerly chief of the U. S. Children's Bureau, a post she held since 1951. She will assume the Harvard position on January 1, 1957.

Holiday Greetings

For the board and staff and for myself it is a pleasant duty to wish the social hygiene family everywhere a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The old year was largely one of coming up on course; the new year should log an impressive measure of progress.

May the holidays, so providently fixed at midpoint between the old year and the new, refresh and sustain you.

PHILIP R. MATHER,
President, American Social Hygiene Assn.

Dr. Bergsma Honored In New Jersey

Daniel Bergsma, M.D., M.P.H., New Jersey's first commissioner of health, was named an honorary member of the American Social Hygiene Association last month in New Jersey.

Dr. Bergsma was honored at a luncheon held by the New Jersey Health Officers' Association at the American Public Health Association convention in Atlantic City on November 15th.

In presenting the award, E. Gurney Clark, M.D., professor of epidemiology at Columbia University's School of Public Health, and ASHA medical consultant, lauded Dr. Bergsma for his "brilliant and humanitarian services to the nation and to his state."

A graduate of Yale University Medical School, with an M.A. in public health from the University of Michigan, Dr. Bergsma became commissioner of health of New Jersey in 1947.

As VD control officer of New Jersey from 1938 to 1943, he directed an "unusually effective" program for case-finding, treatment and follow-up of cases of syphilis and gonorrhea, Dr. Clark said.

During the war Dr. Bergsma was commissioned a medical corps captain, and served as VD control officer for the Eastern Defense Command and later for the Caribbean Defense Command, from 1943 to 1946. Upon leaving the service in 1946, he was promoted to Colonel and received the Legion of Merit Award from the Caribbean Defense Command for outstanding work in lowering the rate of VD infection among military personnel in this area.

Dr. Bergsman is president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers and chairman of the Health Officers' Section of the American Public Health Association.



Daniel Bergsma, M.D., M.P.H.

ASHA Representative Leads Meetings On Family

ASHA field representative, Clayton Jones, formerly ASHA adult educational consultant, served as chairman of the Home and Family Life Section of the Adult Education Association National Conference, held in Atlantic City, November 10 and 11.

More than a hundred adult educators participating in the opening session worked to evolve the character of a typical family faced with life in a new town and to envision the sort of problems they might face.

Other sessions dealt with family reactions to a new community and the inter-relationship of family with community agencies, and agencies with each other.

Session leaders were Robert H. Coates, Director of School Extension, Philadelphia, Pa.; Russell G. Smart, Head of the Department of Child Development and Family Relations, University of Rhode Island; Robert A. Luke, Secretary of the National Association of Public School Adult Educators; and Phyllis Page Bradshaw, Extension Specialist in Human Relations, Rutgers University.

Family Life Lines

WEST VIRGINIA

Representatives of all West Virginia colleges have been invited to a conference on personal and family living to be held on December 4 at **Morris Harvey College**, Charleston, W. Va. Conference is being sponsored by West Virginia participants of ASHA's Central Atlantic Regional Teacher Preparation Project, and **Dr. Edgar Cummings**, ASHA educational consultant, will be principal speaker.

MASSACHUSETTS

ASHA's newest educational family living project was launched in New England recently, with a meeting held in Boston. Coordinator of the program, called The New England Teacher Preparation Project, is **Dr. Lloyd P. Young**, president of Keene Teachers College, Keene, N. H.

NORTH CAROLINA

The Duke University committee on personal and family living will have **Charles Messner**, ASHA education consultant, as a principal speaker when it sponsors a faculty meeting on December 17 to develop family life education courses for the college's curriculum.

MINNESOTA

Robert Swan, director of guidance, Alexander Ramsey High School, St. Paul, Minnesota, and consultant for ASHA's Midwest In-service Teacher Project, will be chairman of the Governor's Youth Commission, newly organized committee on personal and family living.

Mass. Committee Enlarged

Four Massachusetts health commissioners have joined the Health Education Committee of the Massachusetts Society for Social Hygiene. They are **Dr. John C. Ayres**, Springfield; **Dr. Kenneth I. E. MacLeod**, Worcester; **Dr. Harold Stein**, Pittsfield, and **Dr. Leon Sternfeld**, Cambridge.

Chairman of the committee is **Dr. Nicholas J. Fiumara**, head of the VD Division, Massachusetts State Health Department.

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New Leaders Join ASHA Board

Four distinguished community leaders were elected to the Board of Directors of the American Social Hygiene Association at a meeting of the board on November 12 in New York City.

They are Erik Barnouw, New York City; John Beeston, M.D., M.P.H., Los Angeles, Calif.; Rev. Trafford Patrick Maher, St. Louis, Mo., and Dr. M. Norman Orgel, St. Louis, Mo.

A well-known writer and authority in mass communications, Mr. Barnouw is associate professor of dramatic arts, in charge of courses in television, radio and motion pictures at Columbia University, and is editor of the Center for Mass Communications of Columbia University Press, where he supervised the filming of "The Invader" and "Freedom to Read."

Formerly mass media consultant to the U. S. Public Health Service, Mr. Barnouw recently published a new book entitled, "Mass Communication: Television, Radio, Films, Press." He is president of the Writers Guild of America, East.

Dr. Beeston, associate professor of preventive medicine and public health, University of California, at Los Angeles, is chairman of the Hollywood Venereal Disease Council, an ASHA affiliate agency.

He is president of the board, Health Education and Venereal Disease Council, Los Angeles; vice-chairman, health division, Welfare Planning Council, Los Angeles Region, and chairman of the Coordinating Health Council for Religious Sponsored Schools, Los Angeles.

A sociologist and member of the Society of Jesuits, Rev. Trafford Maher is director of the Human Relations Center for Training and Research at St. Louis University and director of the Department of Education at that school.

He received his Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America and belongs to the American College Personnel Association and the Jesuit Educational Association.

Dr. M. Norman Orgel has had wide and varied experience in medicine and in VD control work, as former VD consultant to the Missouri State Health Department and former member of the Washington University School of Medicine.

Now in private practice, Dr. Orgel is vice-president of the Missouri Social Hygiene Association, a post he has held since 1951.



WELCOMING newly elected board members of the American Social Hygiene Association is ASHA president, Philip R. Mather (right), as he greets (left to right) Rev. Trafford Patrick Maher, Dr. M. Norman Orgel and Dr. John Beeston. Erik Barnouw, another new board member, is not pictured. (See story at left.)

Tuller Tapped By U.N.

Josephine Tuller, director of the international division of the American Social Hygiene Association, has been elected to a key committee post for the United Nations Children's Fund.

Mrs. Tuller will be vice-chairman of the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the U.N. Children's Fund. The committee is composed of fifty-five international organizations representing hundreds of national affiliated organizations.

Mrs. Tuller is assistant secretary-general of the International Union Against the Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses.

The NGO committee on the United Nations Children's Fund is the only group of international voluntary organizations meeting regularly to support a specific United Nations operation.

Other newly-elected officers for 1957 are: Bill Kemsley, of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, chairman; Miss Ruth Williams, International Conference of Social Work, vice-chairman; and Mrs. Carmen Giroux, Catholic International Union for Social Service, secretary.

Child Bureau Announces New Edition Of Bulletin

A new edition of "Your Child from One to Six," a bulletin of the United States Children's Bureau, has just been published.

It reflects new understanding of how children grow and develop from infancy to school-age, placing less emphasis on old bugaboos like toilet training and thumb sucking and more on happy mental and emotional development.

In announcing the new bulletin, Dr. Martha M. Eliot, chief, Children's Bureau, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, said it reflects the best thinking and practice of a wide variety of specialists studying and serving children.

In the last major revision of the book, in 1945, chapters on physical health had first place. This order is reversed in the 1956 edition, with emphasis placed on such subjects as "guiding children's imagination" and "constructive discipline."

"Your Child from One to Six" is available from the American Social Hygiene Association Publications Department, 1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y., and is priced at 20 cents a copy.

DECEMBER, 1956

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Social Hygiene News

AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

Mass. VD Rise Reported; First In Ten Years

Venereal disease is on the rise in Massachusetts for the first time in a decade.

This was revealed recently to the *Boston Herald* by Dr. Nicholas J. Fiumara, head of the VD division of the Massachusetts State Health Department.

Dr. Fiumara reported a 100 per cent increase in cases of syphilis in the first nine months of 1953 as compared with the same period last year.

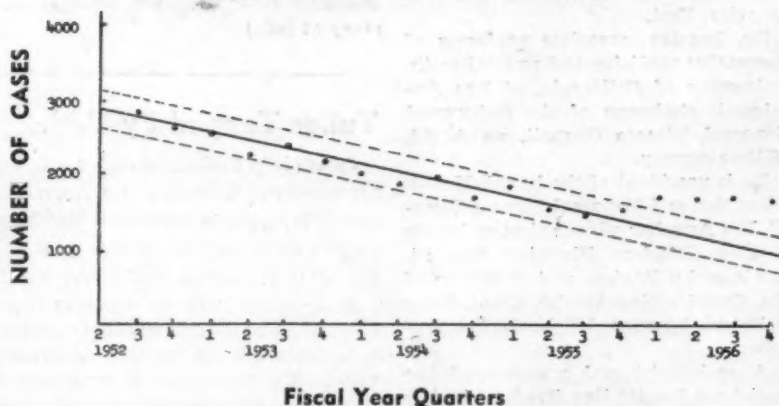
According to Dr. Fiumara, the rise represents the first loss of "control efficiency" in a long time and may forecast large-scale increases.

In accounting for the puzzling increase in VD, Dr. Fiumara advanced his theory that "the sex habits of our people are getting worse."

In substantiating this, he pointed to the following situation in Massachusetts:

- At least four per cent of babies born in the state are admittedly illegitimate, and the actual rate may be two or three times that per cent.
- An ever-increasing number of high school girls are leaving school because of pregnancy.
- The number of juvenile delinquency cases is rising and, among the girls, sex offenses are the major reasons for delinquency.

Trend of Reported Cases of Primary and Secondary Syphilis
Continental United States — October 1951 - June 1956



EDITOR'S NOTE: The public health service chart above shows that the number of cases of primary and secondary syphilis reported during fiscal year 1956 showed a trend upward for the first time since 1952. Heavy center line is the trend of primary and secondary syphilis in Continental United States from October 1, 1951, through July 1, 1956. Broken lines indicate limits within which points may fall due to chance variation. Points plotted represent actual cases reported by State health departments to the Public Health Service for each quarter shown.

Record Crop Of Children Seen By Statisticians

Children under 18 in the United States increased in number by more than a third during the ten years following World War II to reach a record total of 55½ million, a gain of more than 14 million over the 1945 figure, according to the Metropolitan

Life Insurance Company's statisticians. The increase is by far the greatest in the country's history. For comparison, during the three decades of 1900 through 1930 the children at these ages increased by only 12½ million.